

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK

2008

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction reports there are 1.4 million public school students served by 2,452 public and charter schools; and

WHEREAS, North Carolina's schools make substantial contributions to the future of North Carolina and to the development of our state's young people as knowledgeable, responsible and productive citizens; and

WHEREAS, excellence in education is dependent on safe, secure and peaceful school settings; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of all citizens to enhance the learning experiences of young people by helping to ensure fair and effective discipline, promote good citizenship and make schools safe and secure; and

WHEREAS, state leaders, especially those in education, juvenile justice, law enforcement and business, have been collaborating to focus public attention on school safety and work to identify, develop and promote innovative solutions to these critical issues; and

WHEREAS, according to the Department of Public Instruction's 2006-07 Annual Report on School Crime and Violence, 40 percent of all public schools reported no incidents of crime or violence last year and 72 percent reported five or fewer incidents of any kind; and

WHEREAS, three categories of incidents are responsible for 85 percent of all reported offenses. They are possession of a controlled substance, possession of an alcoholic beverage, and possession of a weapon excluding firearms and powerful explosives; and

WHEREAS, public schools are working with their communities to increase awareness of issues facing children and families in today's world with statewide programs such as the N.C. Positive Behavior Support Initiative which improves the learning environment and decreases student behavior problems; *Media Ready*, a media literacy substance abuse prevention program supported by First Lady Mary Easley; and ongoing training for the school districts' safe and drug-free school coordinators; and

WHEREAS, additional information on school safety efforts across the nation can be found at: <http://www.schoolsafety.us/Safe-Schools-Week-p-24.html>; and

WHEREAS, the observance of "Safe Schools Week" will substantially promote efforts to provide North Carolina schools with positive and safe learning climates-ones that are free of fear and conducive to learning;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 19-25, 2008, to be "**SAFE SCHOOLS WEEK**" in North Carolina and call upon our citizens to safeguard our schools by supporting safe, secure, and productive schools.




MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the City of Raleigh, this first day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-third.